



VIRGINIA OFFICE OF EMS

MEMORANDUM

From: Michael D. Berg, Regulation & Compliance Manager
Office of Emergency Medical Services

Subject: Guidelines for EMS Agency Licensure Applicants

Please refer to the following guidelines when determining the type of classification needed for licensure of your EMS agency:

First Responder Service

Immediate and/or logistical response to the location of a call for the delivery of life support until the arrival of a class of EMS vehicle capable of patient care and transport. The following EMS licenses are used for first responder services: a) Non – transport – BLS; b) Non – transport - ALS - Shock Trauma; c) Non – transport – ALS – Cardiac/Paramedic. (Shock Trauma, Cardiac/Paramedic requires ALS agency license).

Basic Life Support *

Level of pre-hospital and inter-facility care which includes the recognition of life threatening conditions which may result in respiratory and cardiac arrest and the application of life support functions including CPR or the use of adjunctive techniques and procedures. The following EMS license is used for basic Life Support Services: a) Emergency Ground Transport – BLS. This classification is used for agencies providing scheduled, pre-arranged patient transports as well.

Advanced Life Support

Sophisticated level of pre-hospital and inter-facility emergency care provided by the following categories of EMS personnel: EMT-Shock Trauma Technicians, EMT-Cardiac Technicians, EMT-Paramedic or equivalents approved by the Commissioner of Health. Includes BLS functions plus cardiac monitoring, cardiac defibrillation, IV therapy, medication administration, use of adjunctive ventilation devices, trauma care, and other authorized techniques and procedures. The following EMS licenses are used for Advanced Life Support Services: a) Emergency Ground Transport – ALS (Shock Trauma), and b) Emergency Ground Transport – ALS (Cardiac/Paramedic)

Specialized Transport Service

A sophisticated and specialized level of pre-hospital and inter-facility emergency care which includes basic and advanced life support functions for a specified type of patient including Neonatal Life Support, Pediatric Life Support or Adult Life Support.

Medical Wheelchair Transport Service

Transportation of persons in wheelchairs who are sick, infirm or otherwise disabled, who under the supervision of a physician and who require transportation for non-emergency medical or rehabilitation purposes **between** medical facilities. Services shall not transport patients who require basic or advanced life support; patients with any temporary invasive device or equipment (i.e. IV administration devices, airway maintenance devices, but excluding urinary catheters, and affixed gastric tube) or any patient requiring close observation and monitoring preceding or following any invasive technique or patients who require transport by stretcher. The following EMS agency classification is used for medical Wheelchair Interfacility Transport.

Air Transport Service

Provision of basic and advanced life support in fixed wing or rotary wing vehicles. The following EMS agency classifications are used for Air Transport Services: a) Rotary Wing Transport – BLS; b) Rotary Wing Transport – ALS; c) Fixed Wing Transport – BLS, and d) Fixed Wing Transport – ALS.

Please call your area EMS Program Representative or Mr. Berg if you have any additional questions.